(d) if so, whether Government has made any investigations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) has reported refusal of 256 consignments in August, on its website.

(c) Instances of rejections and destruction of couple of rejected Indian consignments of agricultural and marine products by some of the EU Member States on account of Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) and technical parameters have been noticed during the last two and half years.

The Department of AYUSH has informed that Canada banned Indian Ayurvedic drugs due to reportedly high levels of heavy metals in these Ayurvedic drugs, without providing the details of the test results and the methods adopted to determine the same. As per the WTO-Agreement on the Application of Sanitary & Phytosanitary measures (SPS) and the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Members of the WTO are allowed to take or adopt any measures including embargo on imports for protection of life or health of human beings, animals and plants, provided such measures are based on evidence of science, are not having discriminatory in content, and are not trade restrictive.

(d) The Canadian ban on import of Indian Ayurvedic drugs appears to have violated the aforesaid principles of science and non-discrimination and has also caused undue trade disruption. The matter was taken up with Canada in the last meeting of the Joint Commission held in India in September, 2005.

In order to address quality issues in food products exports, Government has laid down standards and residue monitoring plans for various processed food items. Government is also providing assistance for establishment/ modernization/technology upgradation of food processing units, setting up of testing/inspection facilities, support for research & development, including quality assurance and accreditation under quality certification system, creation of infrastructure, development of human resource, etc.

Imposition of Dumping Duty on Shrimps by US

755. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US still imposes dumping duty on shrimps from our country;

(b) whether Government has made a request to US authorities to lift such duties keeping in view the sufferings of our fishermen in the last natural calamities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) how far has this anti-dumping duty affected exports of shrimps from Orissa during 2004-05; and

(e) what is the action plan of USA to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government had taken up the matter with the United States Department of Commerce (US DoC) and to the United States International Trade Commission (US ITC).

(d) As per the export figures compiled by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), on the basis of shipping bills and invoices, the export of frozen shrimps by the registered exporters in Orissa has been valued at US dollar 51.26 million during 2004-05 as compared to US dollar 47.04 million during 2003-04.

(e) Anti-dumping duty in force at present is subject to annual administrative assessment to be conducted by US Authorities.

Trade with Israel

756. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after withdrawal of Israel's forces from Gaza Strip, there will be congenial atmosphere for trade with Israel;

(b) if so, has government examined the chances of boosting bilateral trade with Israel;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The potential areas of bilateral trade and the ways and means